

## **"MRS. MOONLIGHT."**

### **REPERTORY PRODUCTION.**

Many members of the general public who sought to enter Cremorne Theatre last night were politely refused admittance. The Brisbane Repertory Theatre Society were staging Benn. W. Levy's play in three acts, "Mrs. Moonlight." It was explained by the president (Professor J. J. Stable), in a speech from the stage before the curtain rose, that the production was for members only. The rights of the play had been acquired by a professional company that was to visit Australia, and a public presentation by the society was not permitted.

Had the society not had available a cast of experienced players this "piece of pastiche in three acts" not only could not have been presented with the insight and fidelity that distinguished the performance last night; it would have been more than inadvisable to attempt it at all. There was, however, on the whole, a most admirable example of the society's advanced work, and a satisfying realisation of a series of exacting roles. The play proceeds through a succession of three periods in the lives of four principal characters, traversing 48 years, and introducing a second and third generation, with interwoven interests and complications.

The central character, Mrs. Moonlight, has wished on herself sustained youth, through the not so fantastic medium of a charm. Thence follow the involved situations, to a skilfully-handled ending. Simply and delicately the subtleties of the part were presented by Miss Patricia Trace. Her reading had much dignity of conception. From the zest of the early period to the senility of the last, "Tom Moonlight" was convincingly played by Mr. Jum Pendleton. Miss Kathleen Radford had poise and sympathy as Edith Jones. A delightful study was that by Miss Hattie Clarke of Minnie, the Scottish retainer, with her grim

that by Miss Hattie Clarke of Minnie, the Scottish retainer, with her grim yet quaint philosophy and management of the family. Her assumption of the accent was not the least of her success. Excellent support was given by Misses Elaine Smith and Messrs. Tom Stephens, Jack Reading, and Gregory Hull. The producer was Mr. Royston Marcus, and the stage manager Dr. J. V. Duhig.